

respect of Uttar Pradesh, issued under article 356 of the Constitution by the President, for a further period of six months with effect from the 17th April, 1997."

The motion was adopted.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Not today. Let us not break the convention.

[Translation]

Dr. SHAFIUR RAHMAN BARQ (Moradabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, This is about the Mosque.

MR. SPEAKER: Today is Friday. Today there will be no zero hour, whatever the matter may be.

12.10 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Need to Set up a National Judicial Commission

[Translation]

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur): The procedure of appointment of High Court and Supreme Court Judges should be modified in such a manner that it may reflect social justice besides being more transparent. According to constitutional provision governing the appointments of the Supreme Court and High Court Judges, only advocates of High Courts can be appointed as Judges. The term High Court advocates has been construed to mean the advocates practising in High Courts only which is not correct. The advocates practising in Subordinate Courts are no less eligible for appointment to the posts of judge in High Courts. All the three judicial functionaries suggested to in the Constitution, viz. judges, advocates and eminent jurists should be given equal importance in the matter. Therefore, The Central Government is requested that a National Judicial Commission should be set up early for this purpose. Besides and today there is a need to put an end to such practise in order to check the misuse of cases of public interest.

(ii) Need to Expedite the Opening of Government Aquarium at Digha in Midnapore District, West Bengal

[English]

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI (CONTAL): Digha, a beautiful sea resort on the Bay of Bengal is situated in the border areas of West Bengal and Orissa. It is in the district of Midnapore, West Bengal which attracts a large number of tourists every day. An aquarium has been built up by the Union Government for the purpose of satisfying the needs of the visitors. But the said aquarium has not yet been opened to the public in spite of the visitors' persistent demand. I would, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to

take urgent steps to open the aquarium to the public and equip it with all the necessary inputs.

[Translation]

(iii) Need for Early Prosecution of High Officials of Uttar Pradesh Government Involved in Corruption Cases

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH (MEERUT): Since Uttar Pradesh is under President rule, the responsibility of Uttar Pradesh fully lies with the Central Government. The premises of many high officials in Uttar Pradesh have recently been raided by the Vigilance Department which has found them guilty with clearcut proofs of their involvement in corruption. But no chargesheet is being filed against them and they are not being prosecuted as the necessary permission of the State Government for the same is not forthcoming, due to which no action is being taken against the guilty officials. There are about 50 such old and new officials.

I would, therefore, urge upon the Union Home Minister to intervene and issue necessary directions to the Uttar Pradesh Government for granting permission to the vigilance department for filing chargesheet against the guilty officials so as to facilitate early prosecution of such guilty officials.

(iv) Need to Evolve a Comprehensive Master Plan For Replacement of Slums in Metropolitan Cities Particularly in Howrah, West Bengal

[English]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (HOWRAH): Sir, Ninth Plan document is approaching very fast to share the destiny of the nation for next five years by taking special care of rural and urban development. The pressures on the urban centres are mounting every day. The metropolitan city of Howrah, which is one of the oldest in India, 510 years old, is faced with untold miseries in the slum, sanitation, health, road and drinking water. The Ninth Plan document must ensure a comprehensive master plan concept for the revival of such old cities with a proper living condition and phase by phase replacement of the slums for a proper living condition of the poorest of the poor. The idea of combining the development work in a model twin city project between Howrah and Calcutta must get special priority in the ultimate economic development with a view to strengthening the infrastructure shall depend on how we handle the urban problems of Calcutta and Howrah. While Calcutta is gaining some momentum but Howrah is on the bad side. There are enough land and opportunities to bring Howrah in a comprehensive master plan programme for its total revival. The city is affected by pollution, lack of drinking water, sanitation and communication at the nose of Calcutta city and Calcutta port.

The matter has been brought before the Prime Minister and the Planning Commission time and again through several representations. I would request the Government

to take appropriate steps consulting the State Government for a proposal which could figure in the Plan Document to save this city.

(v) Need to Provide Financial Assistance to Government of West Bengal For Completion of Sunderbans Delta Project Phase II

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (JOYNAGAR): The Central Government was kind enough to consider the proposal regarding Sundarbans Delta Project-Phase-II submitted by the State Government of West Bengal sometime back. About 3400 k.m. embankment of Sunderbans river is vulnerable to high time flood and all other calamities. The Sunderbans though renowned for its flora and fauna and unique bio-diversity, does not have any industry and the poor people of the area live only on the catching of fish and cutting of wood. This Project was a part of the Ganga Flood Control. The West Bengal Government, as you know, Sir, is suffering from acute financial crunch and thus unable to proceed with the project, which is causing utmost distress to the people of this area. The estimated cost of this project is Rs. 225.39 crore. I wonder whether any provision for this project has been made in the Tenth Five Year Plan or not. Sir, it is high time that the Central Government comes to the rescue of the poor Sunderbans inhabitants and save them from the vagaries of the Sunderbans river and render necessary financial help to the West Bengal Government to go ahead with this project.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (MUMBAI SOUTH-CENTRAL): Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday an explosion took place in Satara district of Maharashtra. 58 persons died and 22 persons injured in the incident. We would like to seek information from the Union Government that today R.D.X. is being smuggled into the country at large scale. R.D.X. has been recovered from Gujarat. Hon. Home Minister is here in the House, A.K. 47 and other weapons are being smuggled into the country. Weapons have been dropped in West Bengal. He may tell from where the weapons are coming from? How many weapons have been recovered and still being smuggled into the country? I.S.I. wants to create turbulence. Earlier, myself alongwith Our hon. leader Shri Madhukar Sarpotdar had raised this issue. The fact has come into light in Mumbai. A photo has been published along with the caption 'A plot to assassinate Bal Thakarey unearthed' in a newspaper. One person named Salafi, who has entered into Maharashtra through I.S.I. has been arrested in Maharashtra. He had come to Maharashtra with an intention to blow 'Matushi', the house of Bal Thakarey Sahab near our office "Saamna". Explosion occurred in Mumbai and Andhra Pradesh. He was involved in these incidents also. We would like to ask the Government if they would inform us about the increase in the ISI activities? Today people are trying to kill Bala Sahab Thakarey. We

would like to have a statement in this regard from the Government. We had raised this issue the other day also but Home Minister was not present here at that time. Today, he is here in this House. Through You, I request him to give a statement in this regard....(interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : No, please. Since this was a serious matter, I allowed it.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now we have to start the general discussion on the General Budget.

Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mohan Rawale, you cannot get response every time in the Zero Hour. Without notice how do you expect the Minister to reply?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: The Government had said that the statement would be issued. Then why statement is not being issued...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is a State problem.

[English]

This is a matter, law and order, relating to the State Government and the State Government will look into it.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot allow you today. You cannot go on violating the procedure of the House everyday. have given the floor to Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

GENERAL BUDGET—1997-98—GENERAL DISCUSSION—Contd.

12.22 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (LUCKNOW): Mr. Speaker Sir, the Finance Minister of India, Shri Palani Appan Chidambaram had presented his budgets on 28th February. It is 14th March today. Just two weeks have passed by yet the change in the fiscal atmosphere is discernable. I recall the carnival like evening of February 28th when the people were given to understand that this budget had cleared off the cloudy sky to give them a peep into the Starry future ahead. This uneluded budgetary luster seemed to indicate that the country had emerged from the gloomy situation of economic crisis and the affluent future was waiting ahead. However, within 14 days this euphoria have fizzled out and the clouds cleared off by him seem to eclipse the stars again. Hon. Speaker Sir,